



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Peter Lyskowski
Director



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

September 1, 2016

Dear Hospital Personnel:

The Department of Health and Senior Services wants to ensure that all cases of microcephaly and cases of Zika virus infection are properly recorded on the Missouri birth certificate and report of fetal death. Currently, there is not a specific drop down or box to check to report Zika virus infection or microcephaly on either form. Therefore, to ensure that Missouri's data reflecting the rates of these conditions is accurate, the Bureau of Vital Records provides the following instructions for documenting the presence of Zika virus infection in the mother and/or babies born with microcephaly on the Missouri birth or fetal death certificate and facility worksheet.

Question 36 on the facility worksheet can be used to document Zika virus infection or microcephaly by selecting the "Other" checkbox and indicating the appropriate condition in the specific area of the question. This information can then be entered in the MoEVR system on Tab 11 in the same manner. See the following page for an example.

Missouri health care providers caring for pregnant women with possible Zika virus exposure during pregnancy should follow CDC guidelines for patient evaluation and management, found at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html>. Zika virus disease is a nationally notifiable condition and CDC is developing a voluntary registry to collect information about U.S. pregnant women with confirmed Zika virus infection and their infants. Additional information about Zika virus transmission, symptoms and microcephaly can be found at <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/zika/index.php>.

Zika is a virus, which is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The Zika virus can also be transmitted sexually as well as from an infected pregnant woman to her fetus during the pregnancy or around the time of birth. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. However, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Microcephaly is a condition where a baby's head is much smaller than expected. Microcephaly can occur because a baby's brain has not developed properly during pregnancy or has stopped growing after birth. Microcephaly can be an isolated condition or it can occur in combination with other major birth defects. In addition to microcephaly, other problems have been detected among fetuses and infants infected with Zika virus before birth, such as eye defects, hearing loss, and impaired growth. Although Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects and has been linked with these other problems in infants, there is more to learn. Researchers are collecting data to better understand the extent of Zika virus' impact on mothers and their children.

The Department of Health and Senior Services has additional information on its website at <http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/alertsadvisories/index.php>.

Questions pertaining to the Missouri birth and fetal death certificate or facility worksheet can be directed to the appropriate field representative:

Eastern Region: Felicia Bursnall (573) 522-1712

Western Region: Alicia Davis (573) 751-6375

Northern Region: Daniel Quay (573) 522-3233

www.health.mo.gov

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EXAMPLES FOR ENTRY OF MICROCEPHALY AND/OR ZIKA VIRUS ON MoEVR

11 Newborn I | **12 Newborn II** | **14 Record Actions**

36) Congenital Anomalies (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Anencephaly
- ☐ Meningomyelocele/Spina bifida
- ☐ Cyanotic congenital heart disease
- ☐ Congenital diaphragmatic hernia
- ☐ Omphalocele
- ☐ Gastroschisis
- ☐ Limb reduction defect
- ☐ Cleft lip with or without cleft palate
- ☐ Cleft palate alone
- ☐ Down syndrome
- ☐Down, karyotype confirmed
- ☐Down, karyotype pending
- ☐ Other chromosomal disorder
- ☐Other, karyotype confirmed
- ☐Other, karyotype pending
- ☐ Hypospadias
- ☐ **None**
- ☐ Unknown
- ☒ Other

.....Specify other anomaly

☒ Other

.....Specify other anomaly

☒ Other

.....Specify other anomaly

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